

## HUNT FOR SUBMARINES.

More U-boats Destroyed in Month of December Than Germany Was Able to Build According to Information Reaching Washington.

Washington, March 7.—More submarines were destroyed by the allied and American naval forces in December than Germany was able to build during that month, according to information reaching Washington. This fact developed today in discussions of the statement made to Parliament Tuesday by Sir Eric C. Geddes, first lord of the British admiralty that the submarines were being checked.

Whether, succeeding months have shown net loss in German submarines is not known here. It is believed, however, that the anti-submarine campaign has proved so effective that increased efforts this spring will see a steady decrease in the number of u-boats available to prey on allied and American shipping.

What officials know of plans for pressing home the attack with increasing vigor, explains the feeling of optimism that prevails in official circles despite continued heavy claims on ship tonnage through the u-boats. The gradual decline in tonnage losses was graphically pictured to parliament by Sir Eric with curve charts.

American naval officials appear to be satisfied that the weapons with which they expect to crush finally the submarine menace are forthcoming. Increased numbers of patrol vessels of various types, appliances and devices to make them more effective against underwater craft and the increased skill of navy personnel are among the things upon which they count. It has taken time to devise and build the weapons, but they are beginning to become available now.

When the United States entered the war the navy contributed promptly all that it had available to join in the submarine hunt. Sir Eric paid high tribute in his remarks to the spirit and efficiency of American naval units, crediting them with a fair share of what had been accomplished. Vice Admiral Sims' destroyer forces, however, constituted only the advance guard of what the American navy planned to furnish for the fight. Even with that limited aid, the allied navies have held the enemy and are now destroying one out of every four or five u-boats that put to sea. Now America's real contribution to the naval warfare is about to be felt. With every passing week, the strength of the force will grow, for it is embodied in the most extensive construction program ever undertaken for the navy of any power.

The new destroyers and other craft must be added to the patrol fleets gradually as they are constructed. Therefore no sudden fall off of tonnage losses is to be expected. It has been stated publicly by high British naval authorities, however, that next August will show beyond question that the u-boats have been overcome. There are officials here who are hopeful that decided results will be apparent before that, perhaps as early as May or June.

## AUSTRALIAN BALLOT LAW.

Attorney General Gives an Opinion as to Application of New Law.

Columbia, March 6.—In an opinion rendered today Assistant Attorney General Sapp holds that it is clear that it was the intention of the legislature that the requirements of the so-called "Australian ballot system" adopted by the recent general assembly, "should apply to primary elections for municipal officers as well as primary elections for county and State officers." "The same qualifications," he says, "are demanded of voters desiring to vote in a general election as a municipality as are required in general elections for county and State officers."

Continuing, the assistant attorney general says, in response to an inquiry from the city of Union:

"The provisions of the Australian ballot act apply, however, only to primary elections and the payment of any poll tax due and owing six months prior to the election as a condition for voting applies only to general elections, and if a primary election be held by a municipal corporation there is nothing to prohibit the organization of a Democratic club from the voters of the municipality to provide rule and regulations for the conduct of the primary, but such rules and regulations, if at variance with the Australian ballot act, would be of no force since it is mandatory that all primaries be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the act referred to. If no primary is held, however, the act stated above a compliance with the Australian ballot act would not be necessary."

Washington, March 8.—The interest rate on loans to the allies has been raised from four and a half to five per cent, as the result of the recent increase in rates on certificates of indebtedness from four to four and a half per cent.

## YOUNG MEN FOR WAR.

Where do Recruits Go and What Do They Do Before Going "Over There."

Their ultimate destination is France, but where do they go from here and what do they do before their time comes to go "over there."

This question has often been asked by interested friends and relatives of the boys from Sumter and this section who respond to the call of the colors by volunteering for service in the army. The number of young men from this vicinity who have volunteered for service, other than those now in the federalized National guard regiments of the State, is surprisingly large, and is growing larger daily. Before the war is over, the vast majority of the young men will most probably be in the military service. They are needed by their country and are needed badly; as a realization of the fact comes to them, the young men who have red blood flowing in their veins and a commendable love of country in their hearts are answering the call to the colors, and not many weeks will elapse before very few of those physically fit for service will still be at home. It is difficult to realize that this nation is involved in the great world war, and that Americans will be called upon to make sacrifices such as are being made by the people of France, and the other European allies.

Because of their desire to do their part in helping to "make the world safe for democracy," those patriotic sons of America have joined and are joining the army. The first step usually taken by a volunteer is a visit to the local recruiting station. Here he is able to talk the matter over with the recruiting officer and come to a conclusion as to the branch of service he is probably the best fitted for and which would likely be the most pleasant for him. The volunteer then makes application for enlistment, and is given the preliminary physical examination. If he passes this examination and is accepted by the officials at the local station, he spends his next 24 hours bidding friends and relatives farewell, for he is soon to leave for active service with the Sammys. A "badge of honor," bearing an inscription showing that he has volunteered, is then given him which he wears till issued his uniform upon arrival in camp. None but those who have volunteered are allowed to wear this tag.

The enlistment papers of the recruit are filled out at the local station and are ready for him when the time comes to entrain for the main army recruiting station for this district, which is located in Savannah, Ga. The volunteer is given a railway ticket to Savannah, with lunches to appease any hunger he might feel, while en route to the Georgia city. The last good-byes are then said, and he is off.

Upon his arrival at the union railway station in Savannah, the recruit is met by a member of the recruiting party, who takes him to a lodging house, where he finds good and comfortable accommodations for the night. He is given meal tickets with which to obtain his meals while there at one of Savannah's best restaurants. On the following morning, the recruit goes to the main army recruiting station, where he is given the final examination before going to an army post or camp. After having successfully passed this physical examination he leaves Savannah at 3 o'clock in the afternoon for Fort Screven, Georgia, a regular army post located about 11 miles from Savannah, on Tybee Island.

Again the recruit is met at the station by a man in uniform, and taken to a recruit company's barracks where he is given a cot and has instilled into his mind the first principles of army rules and regulations. During the following two or three days, he is sworn into the service by a commissioned officer and is issued a plentiful supply of clothing. He is then a soldier—and is usually mighty proud of it. The first drills, classes of instruction and practices follow during the next few days, which pass swiftly and are filled with many interesting experiences which will linger in his memory.

But Fort Screven is a regular army coast artillery post, and those who do not choose this branch of the service usually remain there only two, three or four weeks. Of course, this is a matter of speculation and no one knows just how long each recruit will be on duty at that post. "Where do we go from here?" is the question asked most frequently among the new soldiers of Fort Screven, and is a question which is never answered except by the issuing of orders for certain men to leave on certain dates for certain other army posts and camps. Some go to Texas, some to Mississippi, some go to camps in the North. No one man can say where the volunteer will go after reaching Fort Screven or how long they will be in training at the camp to which they are assigned. For the majority of them, after three or four months training is

completed, they take a journey by rail and by ship and then—France.

Do they like army life? Are they well cared for? Does the happiness and satisfaction which comes during the first few days after the recruit is accepted for enlistment at the Sumter recruiting station continue? The answer to all these questions is strong in the affirmative. For their own selfish good, if for no other reason, these young men like army life. They are serving their country at a time when their services are most needed and are happy in so doing. Jests about "this awful army life" are heard on every side for the American soldiers are well versed in the gentle art of complaining. Talk seriously with any of their number, however, and it will be found that these growls made in a jocular vein are not made in sincerity. In other words, the soldiers don't mean what they say when they register kicks; they kick about the work they were required to perform in civil life in precisely the same manner.

These are the opinions and findings of a South Carolina boy who is now a private in the regular army, and who takes a private's view of the matter. They have been written by him in the hope that they will be of interest and will bring cheer to the folks back home, and will cause the young men contemplating enlistment to look forward to the time when they will wear uniforms with pleasure.

## COLLEGE STUDENT ENLISTMENT.

Senior Classes of Agricultural College Granted Deferred Classification.

Washington, March 8.—Governors of all the States were notified today by Provost Marshall General Crowder that all students in land grant agricultural colleges, whose class standing places them in the upper third of the senior class, may be granted enlistment as quartermasters in the enlisted reserve corps. They will be placed by the local boards in class five, on the ground that they are in the military service.

## Bishopville News Items.

Bishopville, March 6.—News is very scarce, but I'll try to tell you what I know. Cofit has been in session here this week, Judge Bease presiding. Everyone was pleased with his rapid dispatch of business, courteous manner and his ability. A number of cases were tried and in my humble judgment, justice was meted out in each case that I heard.

There have been four or five marriages since I last wrote. They all seem to be happy. There are a number of new buildings under way.

The Farmers' Loan and Trust Co. bank will soon be completed. This will make four banks for our town. All of brick, thoroughly equipped after the modern plan, and each in flourishing condition.

The new flour mill will soon be ready for business, and I hope will have plenty to do. The wheat crop is fairly good. Most of the oatland is to be planted over. The second planting is up to good stands and looking well. Our farmers have rushed their work and will soon have their land ready for planting. Those who held their cotton are congratulating themselves, for doing so as they are reaping their reward, but we have little to rejoice over when we compare the price of cotton with everything else. But I am glad to know that many of our farmers who were in debt, have been able to square off the old score and begin the year with a bank account.

I never knew forage for stock to be as scarce, as it is, and bringing such fabulous prices and still rising rapidly. Perhaps it will teach the farmer a lesson, if it does not last more than one year.

We have buried two of our best citizens—Ex-Sheriff R. E. Muldrow whom to know was to love, a man of sterling qualities and enviable disposition. We all grieve with those whose hearts are bleeding. Next, our old friend William Tallons has been called to his final reward. He was no ordinary man. Remarkable for his practical judgment, kind heart and loving spirit. May he rest in peace. We extend our tenderest sympathies to each of his loved ones.

Mr. Alexander's little girl who was seriously burnt some weeks ago is much better, and doing as well as could be expected.

Our new presiding elder paid us his first official visit last week. He was at home, being a son of Lee county. He made an excellent address on what it meant to know God which was much enjoyed by all who heard him. After which he held the first quarterly conference. Solicitor Frank McLeod, also one of Lee county's sons, made his first appearance in his new role and acquitted himself very creditably. He will make good. We are proud of our Lee county boys.

Madrid, March 8.—The Spanish cabinet recently reconstructed by Premier Alhucemas, resigned today.

## GAME WARDEN CASE.

Supreme Court Decides That Case Must be Tried in Richland County.

Columbia, March 6.—The State Supreme Court today, in an opinion holding that the action brought by the attorney general, in the name of the State, to test the title of Gov. Manning's appointee, Wade Hampton Gibbs, to the office of chief game warden must be tried in Richland county, establishes the law that Richland county, being the seat of the State government, is the proper venue for the trial of all actions involving title to a State office.

The court holds, in the Gibbs case, that title by jury is not demandable as a matter of right, but that the court may submit issues of fact to a jury, if it so desires, or refer the issues to a referee, as was done in this case.

The opinion is written by Associate Justice Hydrick, Associate Justices Watts, Fraser and Gage concurring. Chief Justice Gary did not sit.

## FIGHTING WITH POISON.

Uncle Sam's Ordnance Department Has Something New For Enemy in Gas Fumes.

Baltimore American.

When the Germans gave their welcome to the Canadians on the West front by launching against them their first gas attack, the world was horrified. It was claimed for the Teuton that he would defeat the allies through chemical inferiority if not otherwise. It was even believed that the allies would not bring themselves to meet the gas attacks with the same kind of weapons. Yet this was a far-fetched bit of sentimentality. Once the new weapon was brought into use the responsibility for its further execution would rest with its originators.

This has been the case, and gas has met gas and ingenuity has gone head on in devising gas masks. The United States, new in the war field, has not only devised an up to date gas mask from its experience gained from the making of masks for dangerous mining operations, but it has likewise devised a gas that has possibilities of havoc beyond anything yet brought into play.

It has been claimed that the Germans would use in their new West front offensive an entirely new gas for which the allies would be unprepared. If they have such gas they are still behind the United States, in all probability. For the Ordnance department is urging to completion an experimental plant for filling shells with deadly fumes beyond anything yet known. This country will have the last word to say on the subject of deadly chemical fighting.

## An Outrage.

The insult of two girls on the streets of Gaffney by three soldiers last Wednesday evening was a high-handed proceeding, and it is to be hoped that the guilty parties may be caught and punished so severely that they would never again dare to repeat the outrage.

When it is the case that innocent girls who are forced to work for their living cannot go to and return from their employment without being subjected to insult by toughs who are disgracing the uniform of the United States army, it is time to call a halt and seriously investigate conditions that render such a thing possible.

We have been informed that certain of the soldiers at Camp Wadsworth were recruited from the slums of the city, and it is said that these men have no respect for women and if this is the case, no woman is safe within their reach.

The men of the South have placed their women on pedestals, and the respect which the Southern man accords the women of his country is proverbial over the whole civilized world, and so sacred is the feeling in the breasts of the ordinary Southerner that he will die before he will renounce the chivalry which has been handed down to him by ancestors who cherished this feeling to such an extent that everything else was subordinated thereto.

These soldiers probably did not realize that they were not only trying to blast the reputation of two innocent girls, but that they were jeopardizing their own worthless lives for the people of the South, while they are intensely loyal to the government of the United States, will not for one moment stand for disrespect to their women and no Yankee, even if he is protected by the uniform of this government, can hope to do a thing of this sort and expect to escape the consequences thereof. Gaffney Ledger.

London, March 6.—The Finnish government has asked the German emperor to appoint Prince Oscar, his fifth son, as king of Finland, the Afon Tidningen reports, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch.

## NEW LABOR CONTRACT LAW.

Gov. Manning Signs New Law Passed by Legislature.

Columbia, March 6.—Governor Manning today approved the new labor contract law, passed by the recent general assembly. It is as follows:

"Section 1. That sections 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498 and 499 of the criminal code of South Carolina are hereby stricken out and the following inserted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497 and 498, to wit:

"Section 492. Misdemeanor fraudulently to fail to carry out contract for personal service.—Any person who shall contract with another to render him personal service of any kind and shall thereafter fraudulently, or with malicious intent to injure his employer, fail to refuse to render such service as agreed upon, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

"Section 493. Misdemeanor to fail to employ after contract.—Any person who shall hereafter contract to receive from another personal service of any kind, and to compensate him therefor, and shall thereafter fraudulently or with malicious intent to injure his employe, fail or refuse to receive such service or to make compensation as agreed upon, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

"Section 494. Misdemeanor to fraudulently fail to perform services after receiving advances.—Any person who shall hereafter contract with another to render personal service of any kind to him, and shall thereafter fraudulently, or with malicious intent to injure the employer, procure advances in money or other thing of value from him with intent not to render the services agreed upon, and who shall thereafter, with like intent, fail or refuse to perform the service agreed upon, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

"Section 495. Misdemeanor to receive labor and not make advances or compensation.—Any person who shall hereafter contract with another to receive from him personal service of any kind, to compensate him therefor, and to make advances to him, and shall thereafter fraudulently or with malicious intent to injure the employer, receive the benefit of such service, in whole or in part, and with like intent fail or refuse to make the compensation or advances agreed upon, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

"Section 496. Contracts may be either verbal or written—to be read and witnessed.—The contracts referred to in Sections 492 to 497, inclusive, may be either verbal or in writing; if in writing, they shall be witnessed by one or more disinterested persons, and at the request of either party be duly executed before a magistrate, whose duty it shall be to read and explain the same to the parties. Such contract shall clearly set forth the conditions upon which the laborer or laborers engage to work embracing the length of time, the amount of money to be paid, and when; if it be on shares of crops, what portion or portions thereof. If verbal, they must be witnessed by at least two disinterested witnesses, not related by blood or marriage within the sixth degree, to either party, and the term of service contracted for must be for a definite time, not exceeding one year. All such contracts shall be valid only between the original parties therein.

and any attempted transfer or assignment of any rights thereunder shall be null and void.

"Section 497. Registration of contracts.—If either party to any written contract herein referred to desires to avail himself of the benefits of Sections 492 to 497, inclusive, against third parties, he shall cause the same to be indexed in the office of the register of mesne conveyance or the clerk of the court (where the office of register of mesne conveyance does not exist), of the county in which said labor or service is to be performed, within ten days from the date of the contract; and such indexing shall constitute notice to all third parties. Such index shall show the names of the employer and the laborer, the date of the contract and the date of its termination, and the location and the name of the place or places whereon the said labor or service is to be performed. The clerk of the court or the register of mesne conveyance, as the case may be, shall endorse his official certificate and the date of filing to be indexed upon every such contract filed under the provisions of Sections 492 to 498, inclusive, and his only fee for the same shall be five cents for each contract. And the clerks of court, or the register of mesne conveyance as the case may be, in all the counties of the State shall provide a book for indexing such contracts, which shall be plainly labeled "Index Labor Contracts."

"Section 498. Punishment for violation of provisions as to contracts.—Upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction of any person charged with a violation of Sections 492 to 497, inclusive, the person so convicted shall be punished by a fine not less than \$25 and not exceeding \$100, or by imprisonment not less than 20 days and not exceeding 30 days for each offense: Provided, That there shall be no prosecution under Sections 492 to 497, inclusive, unless the arrest warrant shall be issued within 30 days from the commission of the offense. Sections 492 to 497, inclusive, are not intended, and shall not be construed, to protect any of the parties to, or punish the violation of any contract or matter connected therewith, where the inducement or consideration of such contract is money or other thing of value advanced to or for the employe prior to the commencement of service thereunder; all such contracts are hereby prohibited and declared null and void."

## FINLAND SIGNS TREATY.

Amsterdam, March 7.—Official announcement was made in Berlin today of the signing of a peace treaty between Germany and Finland, and also of trade and shipping agreements and a supplementary protocol. The treaty was signed at noon today.

Finland by the conditions of the treaty, agrees to cede no territory nor grant territorial rights to any foreign power without the previous consent of Germany, who undertakes to exert herself to secure the recognition of Finland's independence by all the powers.

Each party renounces compensation for war costs or damages. Negotiations will start forthwith for trade and shipping treaty. The fortifications of the Aland Islands will be removed as speedily as possible and regulations will be adopted for the permanent nonfortification of the islands.

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